7th March 1955]

Madras Shops and Establishments Act, 1948

* 1157 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government have recently issued any order under the Madras Shops and Establishments Rules, 1948, exempting shops and establishments employing three and less than three workers and, if so, the reason for the same?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir.

" The application of the Madras Shops and Establishments Act caused hardship and loss to petty shop-keepers besides inconveniencing the general public and preventing the increase in the number of petty shops. With a view to remove the hardship and to enable the Labour Department to concentrate their attention on bigger establishments instead of on petty ones, the Government have exempted temporarily for a period of one year all shops and establishments employing three and less than three persons from the provisions of the Act. It is proposed to review the position after one year."

* 1158 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether exemption has been granted to shop owners who employ three workers and less from the provisions of the Madras Shops and Establishments Act for one year?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the answer to question No. 1157 put by Sri K. P. Gopalan."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, regarding this exemption, even under this Act, Government have got power to exempt. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government have received any representations from the Employees' Organizations that after passing of this order, they are not even getting their weekly wages and in view of this, will Government consider withdrawing this order? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have answered this question elaborately in the course of a discussion some time ago in this House. As I have stated before, Government will consider whether the question of leave, etc., can be taken out of this exemption. But I cannot exactly say what the representations are, that have been received since the above notification was issued."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" Sir, since the plea for this action is that it is an ' experiment ', cannot the Government confine the experiment to one Municipality instead of applying it to all the Cities of the State? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" No, Sir, Government would not like to discriminate between one area and another."